

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AN INFORMED ITALIAN VIEW OF US-EC POLITICAL CO-
OPERATION DIALOGUE, AND OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF
EUROPE

SUMMARY: DURING THE RECENT ROME VISIT OF FSO ROBERT HOMME
(EUR/RPE), THE MFA'S MOST SENIOR OFFICER DIRECTLY RESPONSIB-
LE FOR EUROPEAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MINISTER UMBERTO LAROCCA,
SHARED HIS VIEWS ON THE US-EC POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND ON THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A UNITED EUROPE. END SUMMARY

1. US-EC POLITICAL DIALOGUE. LAROCCA FELT THE DIALOGUE UN-
DER THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL BUT INDICATED
THAT HE WAS THINKING OF POSSIBLE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT DURING
THE REMAINING WEEKS. THE DIALOGUE HAS TENDED TO BE SPASMIC,
PEAKING JUST BEFORE AND AFTER MAJOR EC POLITICAL CONSULTA-
TIVE MEETINGS. HOWEVER, THE LULLS BETWEEN MEETINGS OCCUR
JUST AT THE TIMES WHERE FORMATIVE THINKING IS GOING ON AND
PAPERS ARE BEING DRAFTED FOR SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS. BOTH SIDES,
THEREFORE, SHOULD SEEK TO TRANSFORM THE DIALOGUE INTO A CON-
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TINUING EXCHANGE. "AFTER ALL, WE ALL KNOW THAT THE SUBJECT

MATTER (FOR MEETINGS) CHANGES ONLY SLOWLY; AGENDA INOVATIONS ARE RARE BECAUSE THE SAME MAJOR AND INTRACTABLE PREOCCUPATIONS TEND TO OCCUPY OUR ATTENTION." THEREFORE RELEVANT AMERICAN VIEWS NEED NOT BE RUSHED ONTO THE SCENE AT THE LAST MINUTE.

2. INSTEAD, OR IN ADDITION, A REGULAR SELECTIVE AMERICAN INPUT -- ANALYSIS, ASSESSMENTS, ARGUMENTATION -- WOULD PERMIT USG VIEWS TO BE FACTORED INTO EC THINKING ON A MORE DELIBERATE BASIS.

3. LAROCCA COMMENTED MILDLY THAT "EVERYBODY KNOWS" THAT THERE ARE AREAS AND PROBLEMS WHICH THE USG DEEMS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AND THE NINE RECOGNIZE THEY WILL NOT GET FULL AND TIMELY INFORMATION FROM US. BEYOND THOSE CASES, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF USEFUL INFORMATION IN AREAS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

4. COMMENT: LAROCCA DID NOT SAY CERTAIN THINGS. HE DID NOT INVITE VOLUMINOUS AMERICAN INPUT. HE DID NOT INDICATE SPECIFICALLY WHAT WE MIGHT EXPECT AS THE BENEFITS OF A MORE MEASURED INPUT, EITHER IN TERMS OF GREATER EUROPEAN ACCEPTANCE OF US VIEWS OR OF AN IMPROVED FEED-BACK FROM THE NINE TO THE USG. HE DID SEEM TO IMPLY, HOWEVER, THAT A REGULAR FLOW FROM THE USG WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE, AND THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE CHANGE.

5. CONSTRUCTING EUROPE. LAROCCA SHOWED SOME OPTIMISM FOR THE EVENTUAL POLITICAL UNIFICATION OF EUROPE. HE NOTED THAT EUROPEANS OF MANY LEVELS, FROM HEADS OF STATE TO TECHNICAL EXPERTS, ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS. "AS A DIPLOMAT I SHOULD BE ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT, BUT OUR EC COMMUNICATIONS ARE NOW SUCH THAT IT IS FAR EASIER AND MORE EFFECTIVE TO TELEPHONE DIRECTLY TO AN OPPOSITE NUMBER IN ANOTHER CAPITAL, RATHER THAN WORKING THROUGH OUR EMBASSIES." PRIME, FOREIGN AND OTHER MINISTER ARE COMING TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND THEIR PROBLEMS WELL, AND ARE LEARNING "LIKE YOU AMERICANS" TO USE FIRST NAMES. THE PROBLEM OF BUILDING EUROPE IS A VERY LONG TERM ONE, BUT THIS GROWING COMMUNITY OF SPIRIT AND THE HABIT OF CONSULTATION, ARE GROWING COMPENENTS IN ITS SOLUTION.

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6. THE NEXT MAJOR STEP SHOULD BE WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. ITALY HAS SUGGESTED A BICAMERAL SYSTEM, A PARLIAMENT WHICH SHOULD OVER TIME ASSUME MORE AND MORE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR EUROPE WHILE IN THE FAR MORE DISTANT FUTURE THERE WOULD BE AN EVOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE COMMISSION IN THE DIRECTION OF AN EXECUTIVE COMPONENT.

7. THE AMERICAN ROLE IS FUNDAMENTAL. "IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT WISH IT, EUROPE WILL NOT UNITE." AS TO PUBLIC POSTURE, AMERICAN STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT ARE IMPORTANT, BUT NOT NEARLY SO IMPORTANT AS DEMONSTRATING THE FACT OF COOPERATION: THE TRANSLATION OF SYMPATHETIC COGNIZANCE OF EUROPEAN PROBLEMS INTO SPECIFIC ACTION ACROSS THE SPAN OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS SO AS NOT TO IMPEDE, AND IN FACT TO ENCOURAGE, GROWING EUROPEAN COHESION. VOLPE

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